



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities

Chuck Clarke, Director

Date: December 12, 2005

To: Northgate Stakeholders Group

From: Miranda Maupin

Re: Design Team Status

Hello Stakeholders,

As I announced to you in my December 1st email update, we convened the Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel design team this past Wednesday, December 7th to kick-off a series of workshops aimed to address the 30% Design comments from Stakeholders as well as Design Commission and other reviewers. The objectives of the workshop series include:

1. Develop a common understanding of preliminary engineering findings as well as cost and technical assumptions, and
2. Collaboratively resolve significant issues raised during 30% design review.

This first workshop included 1) an introduction from Nancy Ahern, 2) identifying the issues to include in the group's scope of work, and 3) reviewing a draft schedule for the workshop series.

Nancy Ahern opened the workshop by charging the group with the task of collaboratively resolving the comments from the 30% Design Review and reporting back to her and Stakeholders with recommendations by mid-January. Nancy also outlined the following parameters for the team's work:

- Timeframe – in moving from 30%-60% design, the project team is under a tight timeframe. Project construction must be substantially complete in November 2007. SPU must apply for the Master Use Permit (MUP) and grading permit in mid-January. This design team is being asked to complete this work while keeping the project on this schedule.
- The 30% design is on the table along with several design issues which this design team is assembled to review and discuss. Please approach this work in the spirit of give-and-take discussion. There are a multitude of “right answers” but the “one right answer” this team produces will be the product of the team's collaboration.
- SPU must be able to clearly demonstrate the water quality benefit of this project to maintain the drainage rate nexus.
- As a starting point, there are some key aspects of the project design that should be viewed as baseline conditions. These include the current grade elevations at the boundaries of the project and the current design of the two diversions.

- Other factors the design team will need to consider in approaching the design:
 - Security – as a public open space, design to provide security/safety for visitors and residents
 - Operation and maintenance considerations
 - Cost control
 - Risk management

Next the team identified the range of comments raised during 30% design review. These included the comments from the Northgate Stakeholders Group, plus comments from the Design Commission and the Design Team (including SPU design, water quality and maintenance staff, Peggy Gaynor from Gaynor Inc., and Greg Giraldo and Melanie Davies from SvR Design). These issues are summarized in the attached document.

Finally, the Design Team agreed upon the following scope of work to be accomplished over the next few weeks:

- Overview of comments identified by TCWQC Design Team, Design Commission and Northgate Stakeholders
- Discuss Geotechnical and Green Wall Design Assumptions
- Water quality and Channel Design Workshop
- Grading and Green Wall Design Workshop
- Landscape Design Workshop, including
 - Pedestrian access
 - Planting
 - Art Plan
- Constructability and Cost Estimate Workshop
- Team Recommendation Summary Workshop

SPU is also working to bring in a third party to participate in the work of the design team.

The Design Team will summarize their recommendations in a 30% Design Documentation Report that will be available for our January meeting. Meanwhile, I will keep you posted on the progress of the Design Team with several status updates via email.

In addition, Nancy has requested a mid-course briefing on progress and recommendations scheduled for noon to 1pm on December 20th. She has asked that I extend the invitation to the Northgate Stakeholders Group for members who may be interested in listening in on the progress report. If you are interested in attending this mid-course briefing, please RSVP to me and I will send you the room details.

Meanwhile, please let me know if you have any thoughts or questions on the Design Team's workshop series.

Thank you,

Miranda